

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached replacement and annotated sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to FIGS. 2 and 3 as follows.

FIG. 2 has been amended to change a reference numeral

FIG. 3 has been amended to change reference numerals and illustrate the loading and suspended structures as well as better illustrate the hinge pin.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed November 18, 2005 has been carefully considered. In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 3-5 have been rejected. The Applicant has amended Claims 1-5 and has added new Claims 6-16. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Election of Species in Relation to Claim 2

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that Claim 2 has been withdrawn from consideration, because rotation prevention means is not present in elected Figure 3. The Applicant traverses and requests that Claim 2 be reinstated for being improperly withdrawn.

As shown in the perspective view in Figures 1 and 2, the hinge pin 48 includes teeth on the peripheral surface of the pin which is an example structure of the rotation prevention means. In the embodiment shown in Figures 1 and 2, the teeth extend along the length of the pin 48 and are parallel to the pin's 48 center axis A3. Figure 3 is a cross sectional drawing which shows the hinge pin having the same reference numeral 48, as with Figures 1 and 2, and includes teeth on its outer surface. However, the teeth of the hinge pin 48 are not able to be shown in Figure 3 due to the view taken of the cross-sectional drawing.

There is adequate support that the hinge pin in Figure 3 has rotation prevention means. The specification states according to Figures 1 and 2 that the rotation prevention means allows one degree of freedom to be eliminated in the connection between the suspended structure and the load structure. (Present Specification, Page 5, Lines 5-15; Page 6, Lines 11-17; Page 7, Lines 19-21). Similarly, the specification notes that the junction device in Figure 3 has only one degree of freedom which is fixed, which is consistent with that specified in the embodiments in Figures 1 and 2. Accordingly, Claim 2 is readable on Figure 3, and it would not be proper to withdraw

Claim 2. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests that Claim 2 be reinstated. Considering that Figure 3 has been amended from a cross-sectional view to a perspective view, the Applicant has amended Figure 3 to better illustrate that the pin 48 includes the teeth and bring the drawings in conformity with the specification and drawings.

Objection to Drawings

Figure 3 has been objected to in the Office Action for failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84. The Applicant has amended Figures 2 and 3 and provided replacement Figures 2 and 3 in this response. Accordingly, the objection is now overcome.

Objection to the Abstract

The Applicant has amended the Abstract as well as portions of the Specification to conform to the changes in the Figures. Accordingly, the objection is now overcome.

Rejections under 35 USC 112

Claims 1 and 3-5 have been rejected under 35 USC 112 second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. The Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 3-5 to overcome these rejections. Accordingly, the Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1 and 3-5 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in light of Claim 8 of US Patent 6,938,855 (the '855 patent). The Applicant respectfully disagrees that Claims 1 and 3-5 are not patentably distinct from Claim 8 of

the '855 patent. However, the Applicant has filed a terminal disclaimer to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Rejection under 35 USC 102

Claims 1 and 3-5 have been rejected separately under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 3,880,444 to Bridges (hereinafter Bridges) and US Patent 4,026,572 to Yoshioka (hereinafter Yoshioka). The Applicant respectfully traverses.

Bridges discloses a support arm which can be pivoted on a pivotal shaft journaled in a channel frame of an automobile, whereby the pivot shaft has each end secured eccentrically in a hub rotatable in a circular hole in each leg of the channel frame. A hexagonal head is lockingly fixed, whereby loosening the hexagonal head allows the pivot shaft to move, thereby allowing repositioning of the wheel. However, as shown in Figure 3 in Bridges, the arm 1 is coupled to the pivot shaft 3, whereby both the pivot shaft 3 and the arm 1 are coaxial along A7 (referenced in Examiner's drawing). In contrast, amended Claim 1 recites, among other things, that the first axis and the second axis are parallel and offset from each other and the hinge pin axis. This is not taught in Bridges, and Claim 1 is accordingly distinguishable from Bridges.

Yoshioka discloses a loaded housing 1 having rotatable eccentric member 4f and two support housings 2 which each have a rotatable eccentric member 4j. A shaft 3a extends through holes in the eccentric members 4f and 4j to couple the loaded housing and support housings to one another.

In contrast to Claim 1, Yoshioka discloses that the shaft 3a must be rotatable with respect to at least one of the eccentric members 4f and 4j, whereby the loaded housing has two modes of freedom of circular movement between the eccentric members 4j and 4f. (Yoshioka, Col. 20, Lines 20-24). As stated above, the present specification recites that the junction device is

configured to eliminate one degree of freedom between the support and loaded structures 36 and 54, whereby rotation prevention means are provided between the hinge pin 48 and the cylindrical holes. Claim 1, among other things, recites that the first and second parts has one rotatable degree of freedom therebetween that is fixed, which is not taught in Yoshioka. Claim 1 is accordingly distinguishable over Yoshioka. For at least the above stated reasons, Claim 1 is allowable over Bridges and Yoshioka, individually or in combination. Thus, Claim 1 is in a condition for allowance.

Claims 2-5 are allowable over Bridges and Yoshioka for being dependent on a base Claim 1, which is allowable for at least the reasons stated above.

New Claims

The Applicant has added new claims 6-16. The Applicant submits that new Claims 6-16 are fully supported by the specification and do not contain any new matter. Allowance of Claims 6-16 is respectfully requested.


Conclusion

It is believed that this response places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of the application is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP


Robert E. Krebs
Reg. No. 25,885

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Thelen Reid & Priest LLP
P.O. Box 640640
San Jose, CA 95164-0640
Tel. (408) 292-5800
Fax. (408) 287-8040

ANNOTATED SHEETS SHOWING CHANGES

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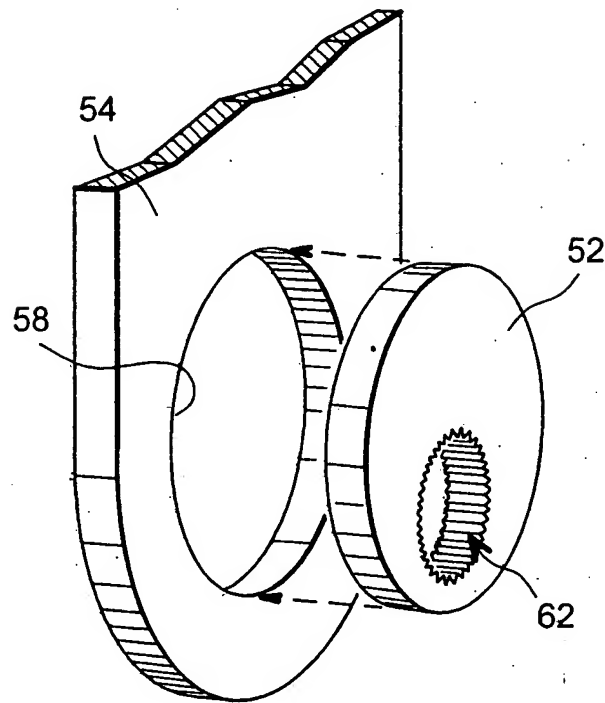
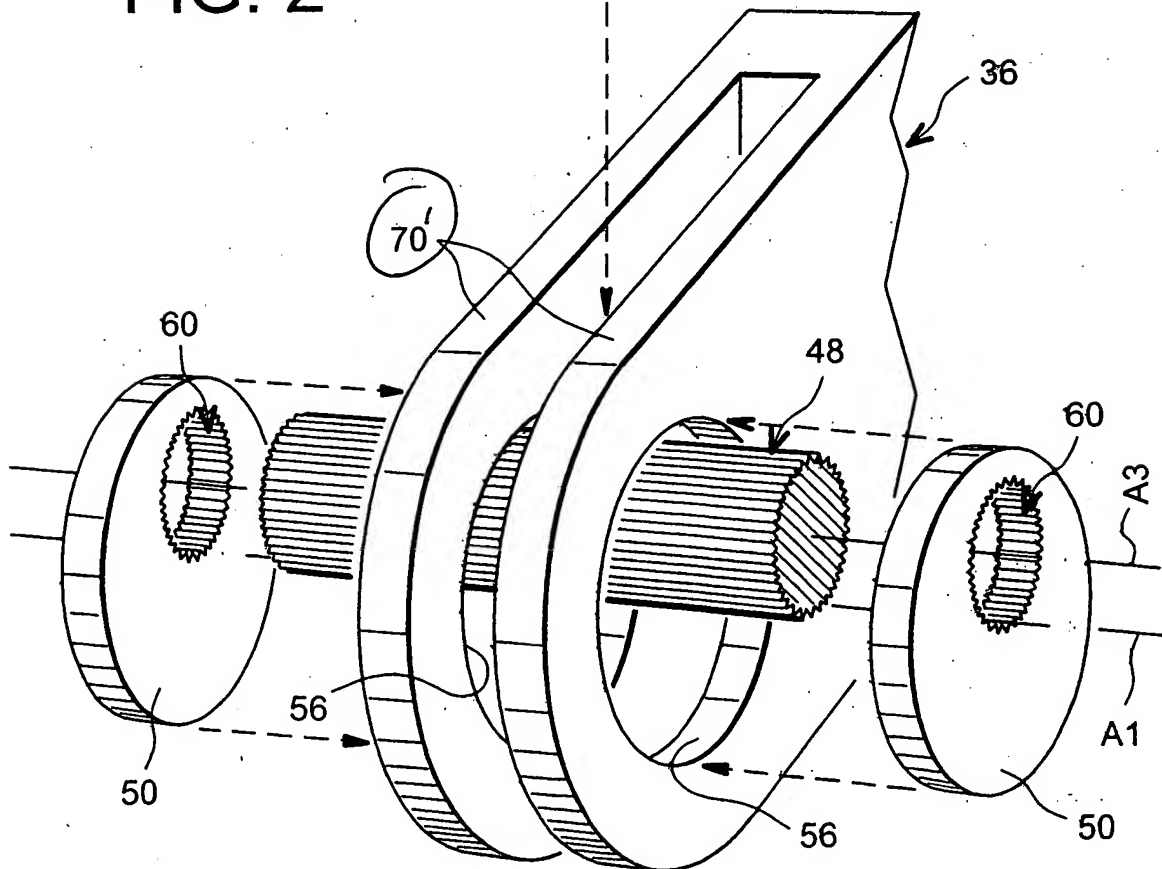


FIG. 2



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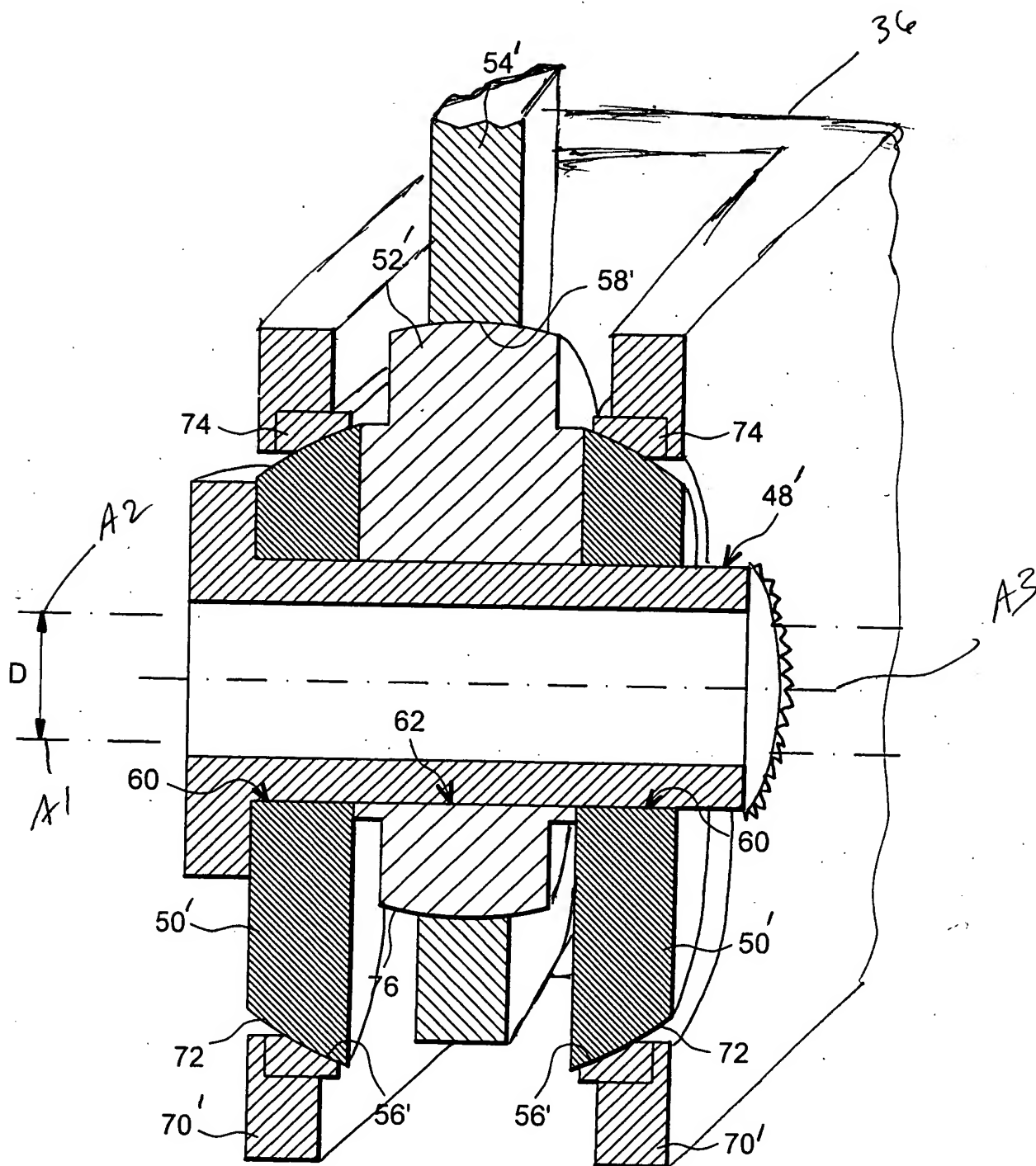


FIG. 3